

**Question for written answer E-005641/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Giles Chichester (ECR) and Julie Girling (ECR)

Subject: Evidence to support claims against Gibraltar bunkering companies

Gibraltar has one of the largest and most important bunkering ports in the Mediterranean. Its bunkering companies continue to go from strength to strength, delivering 4.3 million tonnes of fuel in 2007, compared with just 0.84 million tonnes in 1990. Bunkering is now the main activity within the Port of Gibraltar. Of a total of 8351 deep-sea vessels which called at Gibraltar in 2007, 5 640 were supplied with bunkers¹.

We understand that the Gibraltar Government gives the highest priority to enforcing strict safety and environmental regulations. In November 2002, a Bunkering Code of Practice was introduced and a Bunkering Superintendent appointed police all port operations. Gibraltar is an Associate Member of Oil Spill Response Ltd Southampton².

There have been numerous follow up reports in the Gibraltarian and Spanish media, further to parliamentary questions E-004560/2011 and E-004552/2011 where the Bay of Algeciras was referred to as a 'time-bomb'³.

Please can the Commission provide any evidence supporting the claims made in both questions E-004560/2011 and E-004552/2011?

¹ <http://www.gibraltarport.com/bunkering.cfm>

² <http://www.gibraltarport.com/bunkering.cfm>

³ http://www.chronicle.gi/headlines_details.php?id=21723